

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 03936 190636Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3936

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, NL, NATO
SUBJECT: BILATERAL APPROACHES ON SOVIET TRIALS

1. CHARGE TOOK UP WITH MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN THIS MORNING SUBJECT OF IMPACT OF SOVIET DISSIDENT TRIALS ON CSCE PROCESS AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS. HE INDICATED GON SHARED U.S. CONCERNS. AT SAME TIME HE OBSERVED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN CSCE ASPECTS AND SECURITY ISSUES ON WHICH DUTCH WERE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT U.S. HAD EXPRESSED INTENTION OF PROCEEDING.

2. AFTER MENTIONING STATEMENT MADE LAST WEEK BY FOREIGN MINISTRY (THE HAGUE 3896), RUTTEN EXPLAINED THAT DUTCH HAD EXPECTED BY THIS TIME THAT EC-9 WOULD HAVE REACHED FINAL AGREEMENT ON STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT, EXCERPTS FROM WHICH HAD ALREADY APPEARED IN DUTCH PRESS. IN EXPLANATION PARALLELING THAT IN COPENHAGEN 4596 HE SAID FRG WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HITCH THAT HAD ARISEN; GERMANS INSISTED THAT STATEMENT SHOULD NOT ONLY COVER SOVIET TRIALS BUT ALSO THOSE IN OTHER SOCIALIST STATES. GERMAN CONCERN, HE NOTED, RELATED SPECIFICALLY TO DOMESTIC
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PAGE 02 THE HA 03936 190636Z

PUBLIC OPINION PROBLEM ARISING FROM BAHRO TRIAL IN EAST GERMANY. ACCORDING TO RUTTEN FRENCH OPPOSED BROADENING REFERENCE BEYOND SOVIETS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE TRIALS WERE NOT ISSUE IN ALL SOCIALIST STATES. EXPECTATION HAD BEEN THAT DIFFERENCES WOULD BE SETTLED IN MARGIN OF BONN SUMMIT BUT SO FAR DUTCH HAD NOT HEARD WHETHER FRENCH AND GERMANS HAD ARRIVED AT SOLUTION. THIS WAS REGRETTABLE SINCE THE LONGER THE DELAY IN RELEASING

EC-9 STATEMENT THE MORE ITS IMPACT WOULD BE REDUCED.

3. RUTTEN SAW NOTHING MORE THAT DUTCH COULD DO SEPARATELY.
THERE WERE NO PENDING SOVIET VISITS THAT COULD BE CANCELLED.

4. RUTTEN SPECULATED GLOOMILY ABOUT LACK OF POSSIBILITIES
FOR FUTURE ACTION IF TRIALS CONTINUED AND SOVIETS MAINTAINED
POSITION THAT THEY WERE PURELY INTERNAL MATTER AND TOOK VAVALIER
ATTITUDE TOWARD HOSTILE INTERNATIONAL OPINION. HE SAID THAT
HE HOPED TO REVIEW SITUATION AT MEETING OF EC-9 POLITICAL
DIRECTORS IN BONN AT END OF NEXT WEEK. IN PARTICULAR, DUTCH
THOUGHT EC-9 SHOULD WORK OUT SOME FORM OF COORDINATION THAT
MIGHT BE USEFUL IN FUTURE.

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